

Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

**Multi-core MgO NPs@C core-shell nanospheres for selective CO<sub>2</sub> capture at mild condition**

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Table S1. Summary of XPS results for MgO NPs@C.

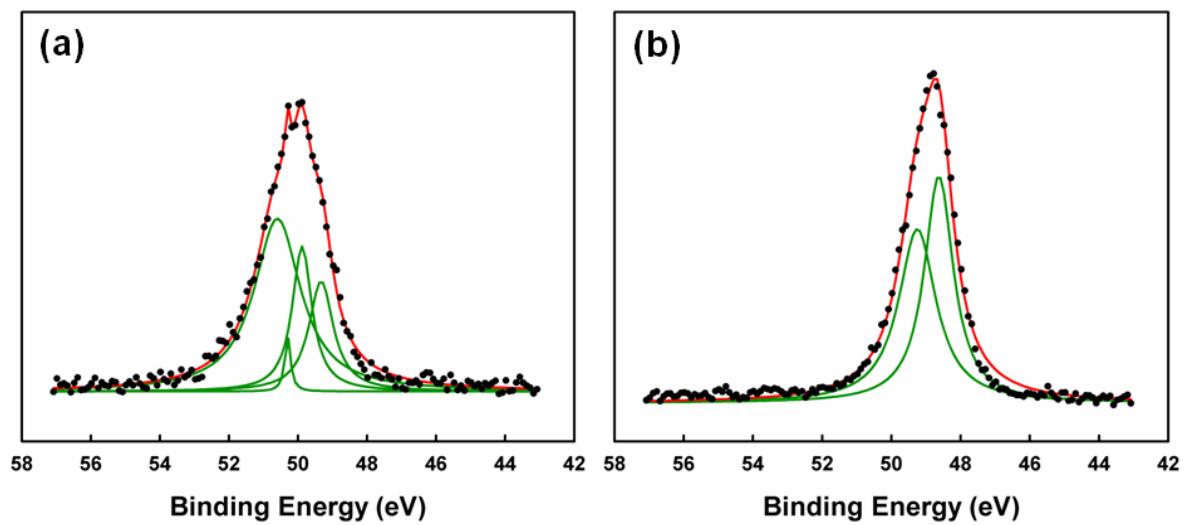
|       |                     | before annealing      |                      | after annealing |              |
|-------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|       |                     | BE(eV) <sup>[a]</sup> | RA(%) <sup>[b]</sup> | BE(eV)          | RA(%)        |
| Mg 2p | Mg-C                |                       |                      | 48.6            | 50.3         |
|       | MgO                 | 49.3                  | 19.4                 | 49.3            | 49.7         |
|       |                     | 49.8                  | 20.4                 |                 |              |
|       | MgCp <sub>2</sub>   | 50.3                  | 2.3                  | -               | -            |
|       | Mg(OH) <sub>2</sub> | 50.6                  | 57.8                 | -               | -            |
| O 1s  | MgO                 | 531.1                 | 35.1                 | 529.1<br>531.0  | 31.5<br>59.5 |
|       | Mg(OH) <sub>2</sub> | 531.9                 | 39.4                 | -               | -            |
|       | MgCO <sub>3</sub>   | 532.9                 | 25.5                 | 532.8           | 9.00         |
| C 1s  | graphite            | 283.8                 | 34.1                 | 283.8           | 19.3         |
|       | Hydrocarbon         | 284.5                 | 45.6                 | 284.3           | 35.8         |
|       | O=C-O               | 288.9                 | 20.3                 | 288.5           | 44.8         |

[a] binding energy

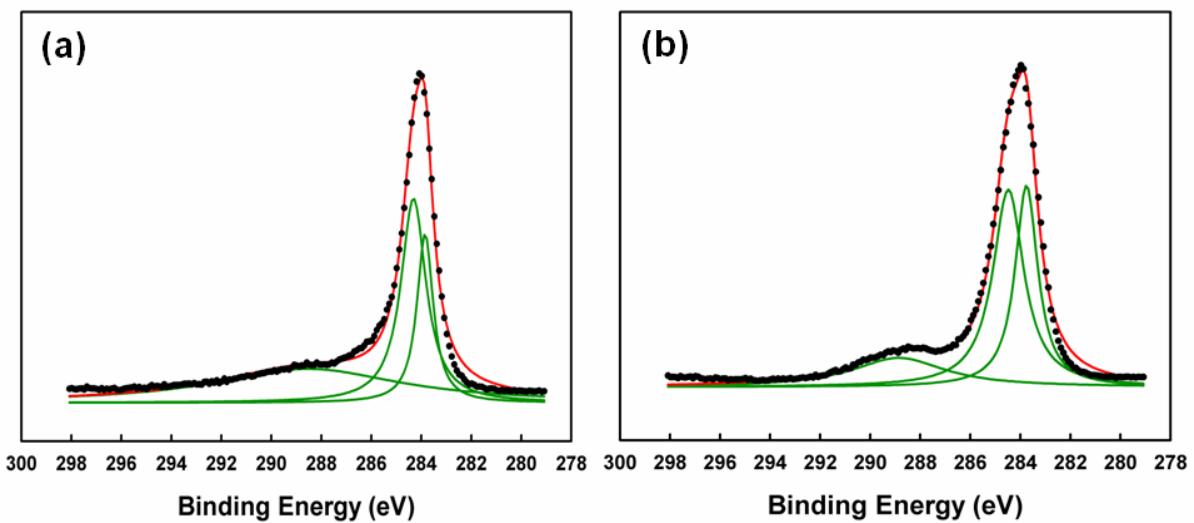
[b] relative area

Table S2. Comparison of the Mg composite (ICP-MS) and elemental analysis for MgO NPs@C before and after annealing treatment.

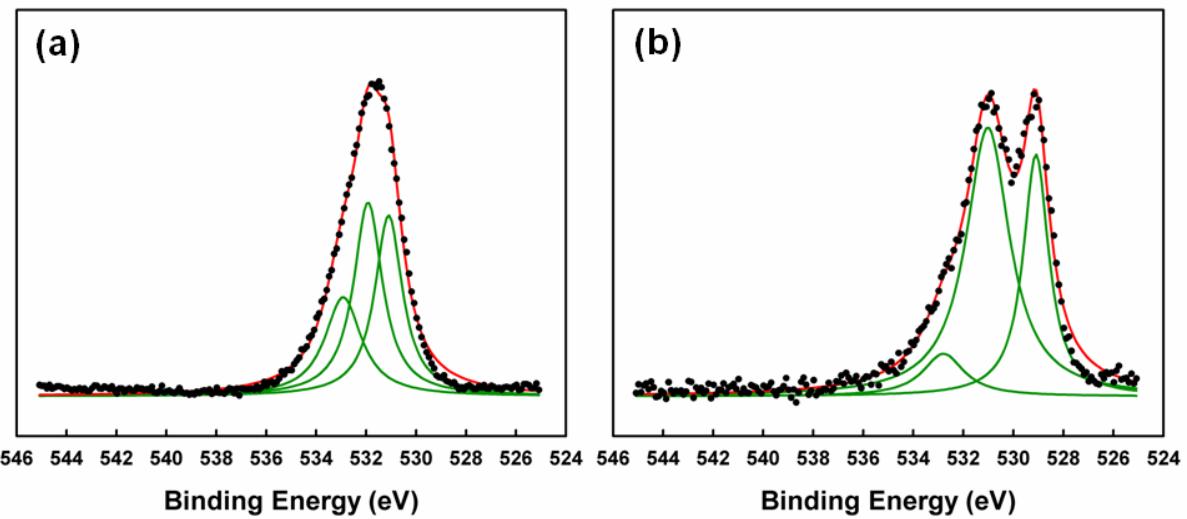
|    | Before annealing | After annealing |
|----|------------------|-----------------|
| Mg | 10.03            | 19.89           |
| C  | 53.43            | 54.58           |
| N  | 0.03             | 0.11            |
| H  | 4.83             | 1.31            |



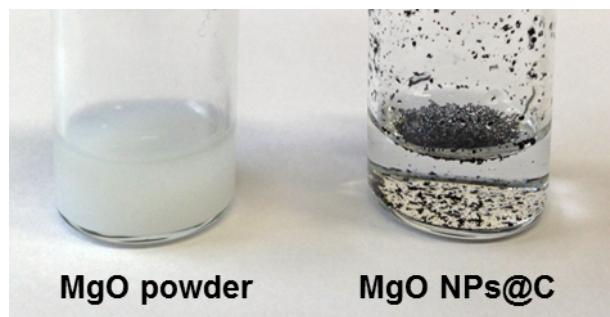
**Fig. S1** Mg 2p XPS results of MgO NPs@C (a) before and (b) after annealing.



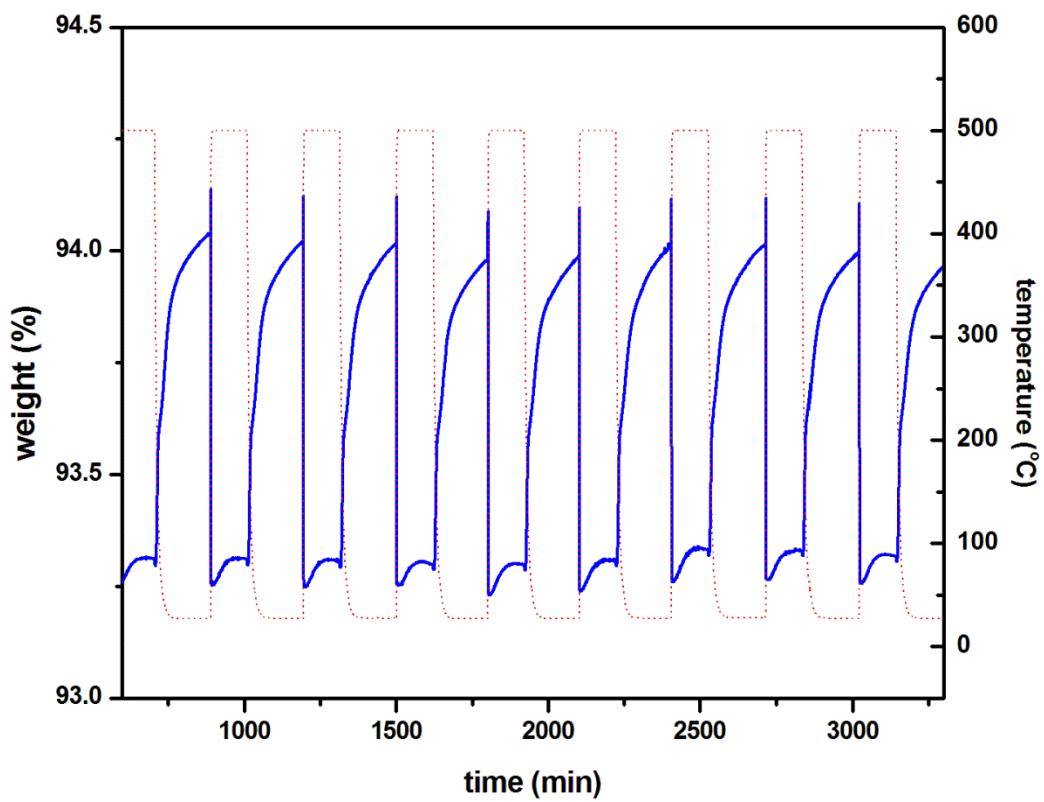
**Fig. S2** C 1s XPS results of MgO NPs@C (a) before and (b) after annealing.



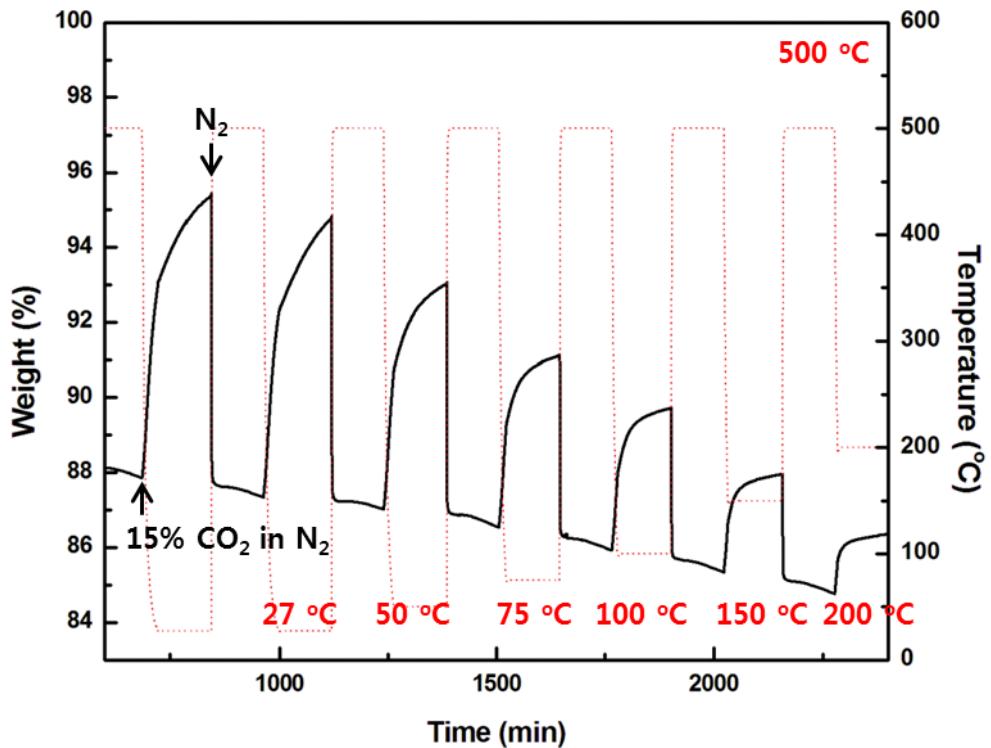
**Fig. S3** O 1s XPS results of MgO NPs@C (a) before and (b) after annealing.



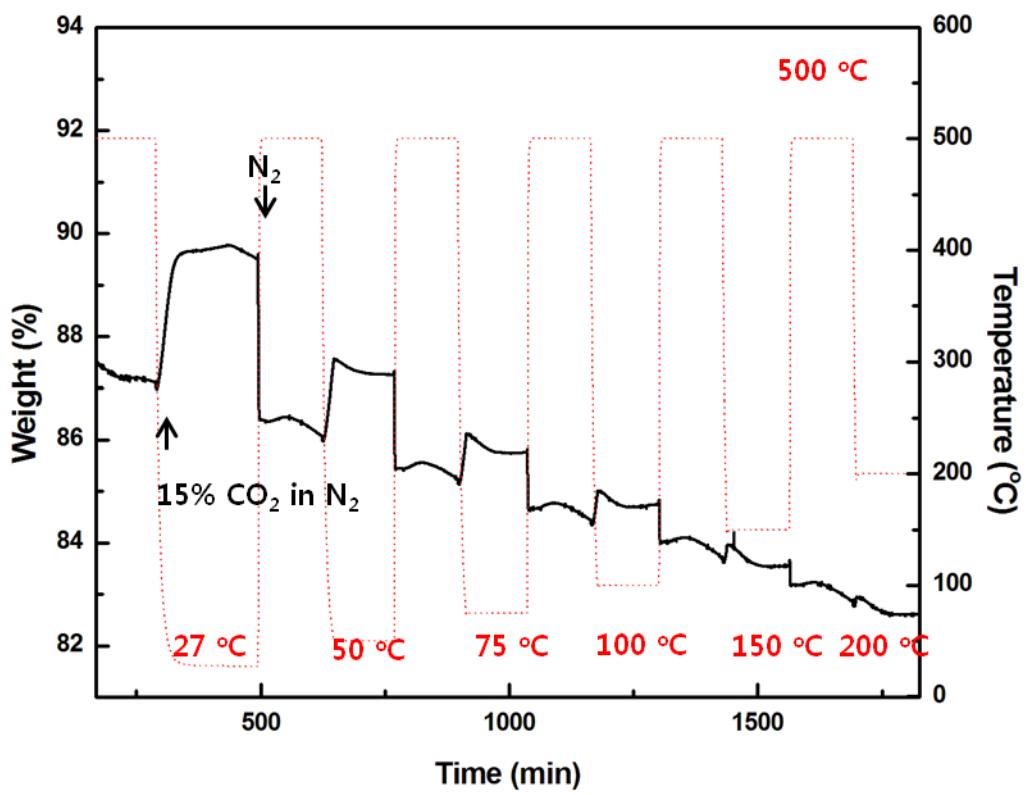
**Fig. S4** Photograph showing different dispersibility of pure MgO powder and MgO NPs@C in water.



**Fig. S5**  $\text{CO}_2$  gas sorption cycling result of commercially available 50 nm sized-MgO powder.

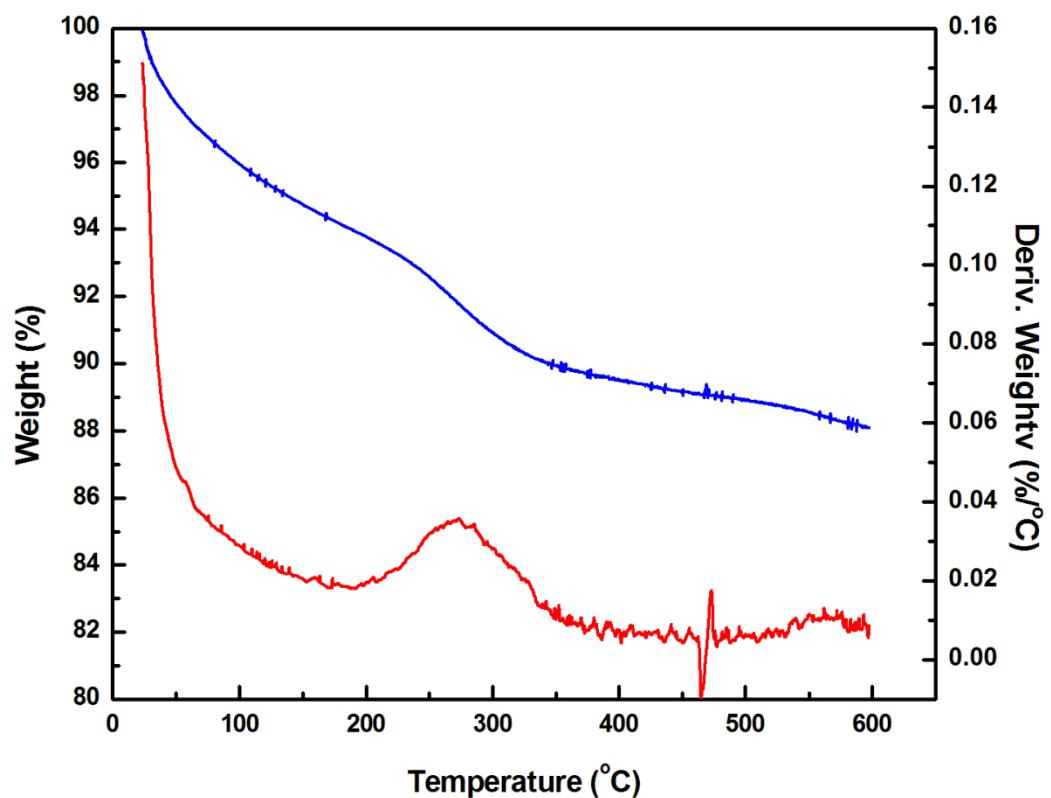


**Fig. S6** CO<sub>2</sub> gas sorption cycling result of MgO NPs@C under different adsorption temperature at 27, 50, 75, 100, 150, and 200 °C.



| $\text{CO}_2$ adsorption temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) | 27  | 50  | 75   | 100  | 150 | 200 |
|---|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|
| adsorption capacity (wt%)                                   | 2.4 | 1.2 | 0.62 | 0.38 | -   | -   |

**Fig. S7**  $\text{CO}_2$  gas sorption cycling result of inner hollow carbon shell under different adsorption temperature at 27, 50, 75, 100, 150, and 200  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .



**Fig. S8** Characterization of the  $\text{CO}_2$ -adsorbed  $\text{MgO}$  NPs@C. TGA trace (blue line) and its first derivative curve (red line).